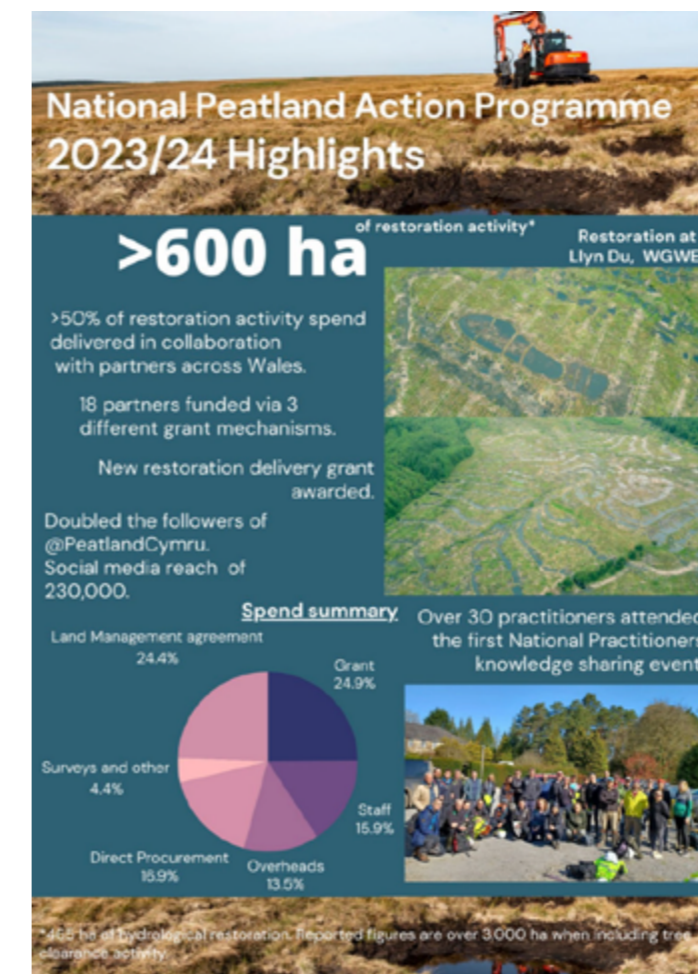


Lock in carbon and reinvigorate vital habitats

National Peatland Action Programme

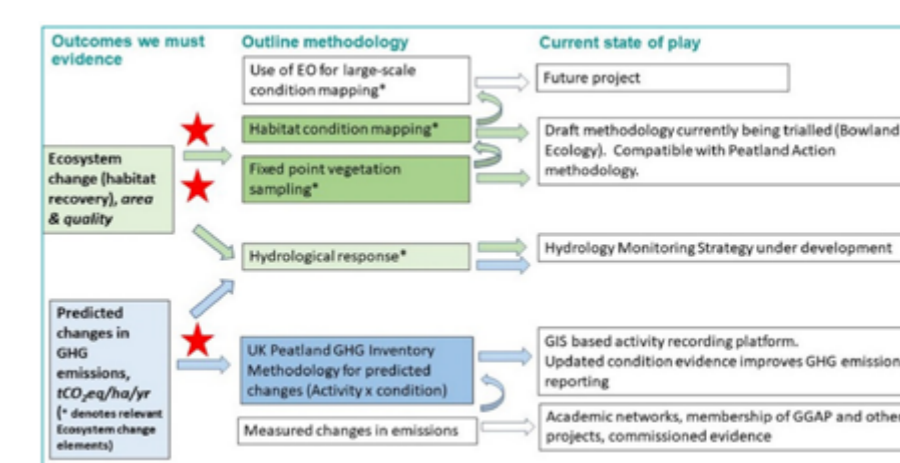


regions4.org/csd/npap



The National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP) marks a significant advancement in peatland restoration efforts in Wales, representing both a major milestone and a substantial investment by the Welsh Government. The programme provides the essential resources, strategic direction, and coordination necessary to meet the ambitious objectives outlined in the Welsh Government's Peatland Policy. This policy aims to manage and restore at least 30,000 hectares of semi-natural peatlands and 5,000 hectares of highly modified peatlands, reflecting a bold commitment to enhancing Wales' peatland ecosystems.

NPAP focuses on six priority action themes that address key areas of peatland degradation: peat erosion, peat drainage, and the sustainable management of both upland and lowland degraded peatlands. Additionally, the programme targets afforested and hyper-modified peatlands. These themes guide the programme's restoration



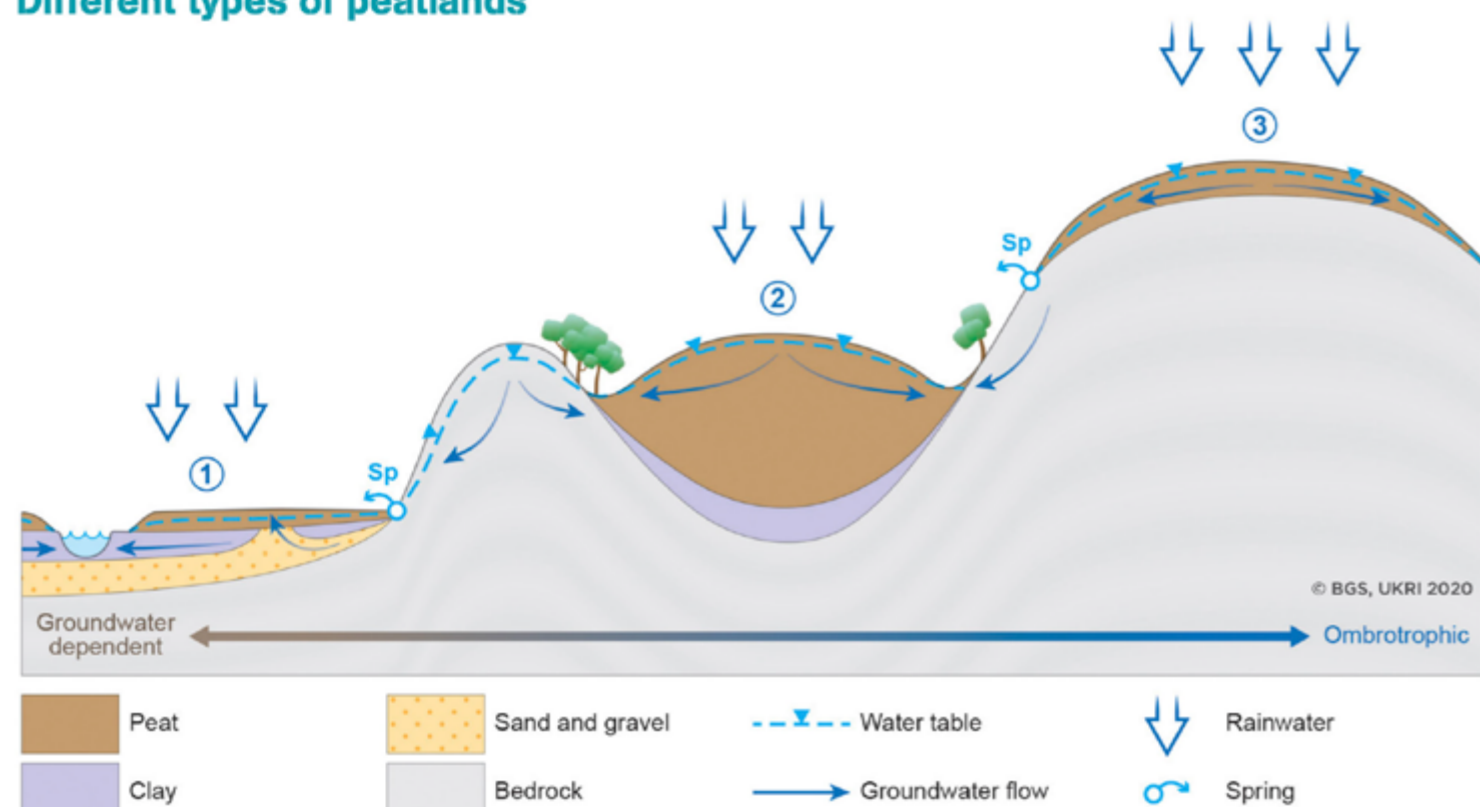
activities across various land uses, encompassing both private and public lands managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and partner organizations.

To ensure effective restoration, NPAP integrates a comprehensive monitoring strategy. One key innovation is the development of condition mapping, which establishes baseline conditions of selected NPAP sites before restoration begins. The NPAP also focuses on monitoring hydrological responses to restoration. Complementing this, the Welsh Peatlands Data Portal represents a major innovation, consolidating peatland data into an accessible, interactive platform, supporting engagement, planning, and reporting.

The NPAP also emphasizes communicating the value of Welsh peatlands and collaborates with diverse projects and partners.

NbS in depth

Different types of peatlands

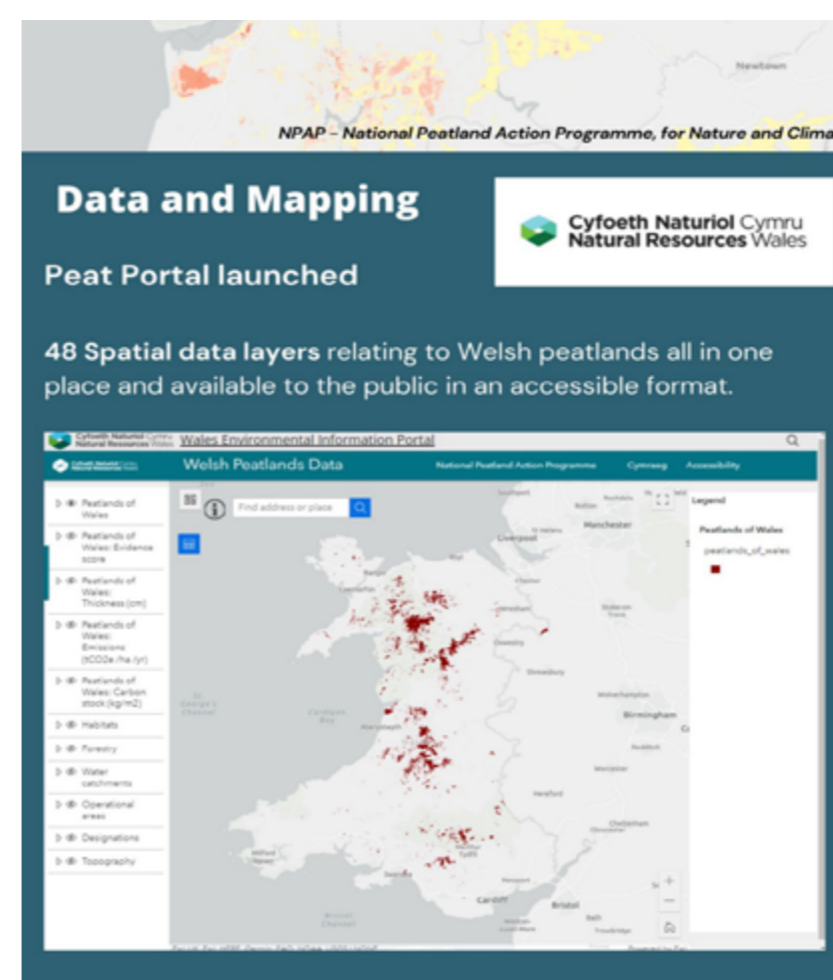


Social benefits

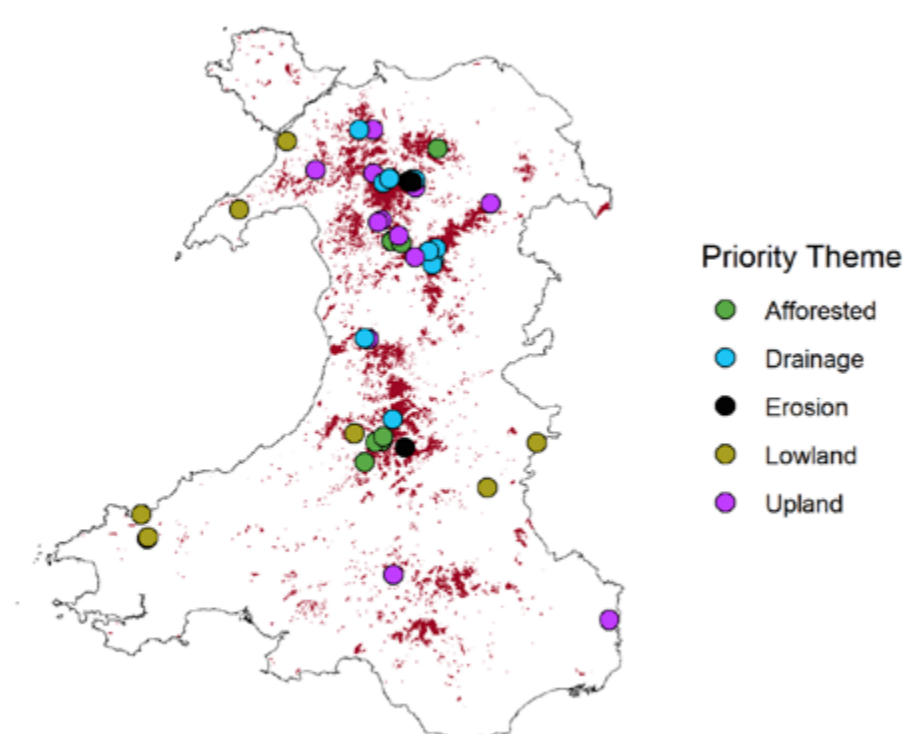
By raising awareness of the importance of peatland restoration, NPAP has connected diverse communities, landowners, farmers, and the general public, promoting collaboration and participation in environmental conservation.

In 2023/24 alone, NPAP organized over 120 engagement meetings and events, including presentations at major public forums like the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show and the National Eisteddfod. These initiatives reached a broad audience, including landowners, farmers, and local communities, fostering increased awareness and collaboration on peatland restoration. Additionally, the dual-language webinars produced for grant information have facilitated broader participation and understanding among diverse groups.

Community-led projects and training sessions have empowered local stakeholders, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for environmental stewardship and enhancing social cohesion around shared ecological goals.

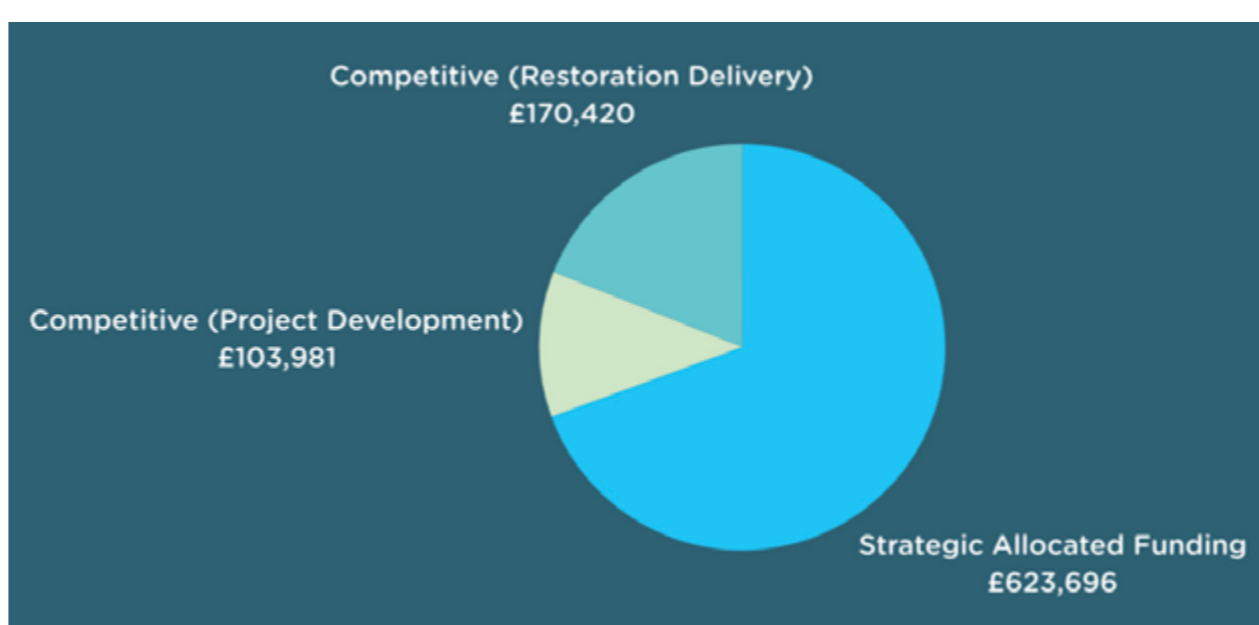


Environmental benefits



The NPAP demonstrates that widespread peatland restoration and local communities' livelihoods can coexist, while keeping carbon locked away. The Programme targets peatland bodies most in need of restoration as well as safeguarding those in good condition and recovering degraded ecosystems. The aim is to deliver 600-800ha of restoration per year across a range of land uses on both private and public land by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and partner organizations. Initial estimates for year four (2023-2024) provide a conservative figure of >600ha under restoration activity, and this figure builds upon the success of year three (2022-2023) delivering 630ha, year two (2021-2022) delivering 1,000ha, and year one (2020/21), delivering 650 ha of restoration activities which were delivered across over 20 sites spanning the full ecological range of semi-natural peatland habitats in Wales.

Economic benefits



Economically, NPAP's peatland restoration efforts have created job opportunities and strengthened local economies, particularly in rural areas.

The programme has provided grants to landowners, organizations, and individuals, incentivizing peatland restoration projects that not only contribute to environmental goals but also support local businesses and industries involved in land management, conservation, and agricultural improvement.

The grant system, including the Strategic Allocated Funding and competitive Development Grants, ensures that both individuals and organizations can contribute to these environmental and economic benefits, building long-term financial resilience in Welsh communities.

In 2023/24, NPAP allocated £898,097 in grants across 18 recipients through three separate

grant mechanisms. The Strategic Allocated Funding (SAF) alone distributed £700,000, with £545,295 actually spent on restoration activities. Additionally, the Development Grant offered between £10,000 and £30,000 to support planning for shovel-ready projects, while the newly established Delivery Grant aims to fund the implementation of restoration activities.

These grants not only support the local economy by funding restoration projects but also contribute to long-term cost savings through improved flood prevention, reduced carbon emissions, and enhanced biodiversity.

The investment in peatland restoration is thus a strategic approach to fostering economic resilience and sustainability in Welsh communities.